

Life's Confusing, Trust God

Ecclesiastes 7:15-29

Big Idea: Life doesn't always work like we think it should; so, we trust God.

¹⁴ In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him. ¹⁵ In my vain life I have seen everything. There is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his evildoing. ¹⁶ Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself? ¹⁷ Be not overly wicked, neither be a fool. Why should you die before your time? ¹⁸ It is good that you should take hold of this, and from that withhold not your hand, for the one who fears God shall come out from both of them.

¹⁹ Wisdom gives strength to the wise man more than ten rulers who are in a city. ²⁰ Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins. ²¹ Do not take to heart all the things that people say, lest you hear your servant cursing you. ²² Your heart knows that many times you yourself have cursed others. ²³ All this I have tested by wisdom. I said, "I will be wise," but it was far from me. ²⁴ That which has been is far off, and deep, very deep; who can find it out? ²⁵ I turned my heart to know and to search out and to seek wisdom and the scheme of things, and to know the wickedness of folly and the foolishness that is madness.

²⁵ I turned my heart to know and to search out and to seek wisdom and the scheme of things, and to know the wickedness of folly and the foolishness that is madness. ²⁶ And I find something more bitter than death: the woman whose heart is snares and nets, and whose hands are fetters. He who pleases God escapes her, but the sinner is taken by her. ²⁷ Behold, this is what I found, says the Preacher, while adding one thing to another to find the scheme of things-- ²⁸ which my soul has sought repeatedly, but I have not found. One man among a thousand I found, but a woman among all these I have not found. ²⁹ See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes. (Ecc 7:15-29 ESV)

Big Idea: Sometimes life makes no sense; so, we trust God.

Life's Confusing ...

1. God is sovereign (v. 14).
2. God takes care of us (15-18).
3. None is righteous (19-22).
4. We cannot fix the problem (23-24).
5. So turn to Jesus (vv. 25-29).

1. God is sovereign (v. 14).

¹⁴ In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: *God has made the one as well as the other*, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.

Let God's sovereignty mold you



- i. Adversity/Joy craft us
(Rom 5:3-4).
- ii. Life too easy → WALL-E
(Pro 30:7-9).
- iii. If life is too hard life → sin.
- iv. Our perception isn't perfect
(Isa 55:8-9).

2. God provides for us (15-18).

¹⁵ In my vain life I have seen everything. There is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his evildoing. ¹⁶ **Be not overly righteous**, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself? ¹⁷ **Be not overly wicked**, neither be a fool. Why should you die before your time? ¹⁸ It is good that you should take hold of this, and from that withhold not your hand, for the one who fears God shall come out from both of them.

Live life with balance because:

- i. Life is messy.
- ii. We're not perfect enough to know perfect righteousness.
- iii. We can be *right* in the *wrong* way.
- iv. Thinking our actions have no impact eschews responsibility.
- v. Sinning because we're *saved* ascribes evil to God.

- i. Avoid extremes (vv. 15-18) because:
 - i. Life is messy.
 - ii. I'm not perfect enough to know exactly what's righteous all the time.
- ii. Overly righteous
 - i. trusting our righteousness, leads to condemnation.
 - ii. We can be *right* in the wrong way.
 - iii. Helping people can hurt them.
- iii. Overly wicked
 - i. Thinking our actions have no impact
 - ii. Strips away responsibility for our choices
 - iii. Ascribes evil to God, as if once we're saved we no longer must love our neighbors.

Live humbly before God [*fear God*]
and He will take care of you.

3. None are righteous (vv. 19-22).

¹⁹ Wisdom gives strength to the wise man more than ten rulers who are in a city. ²⁰ Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins. ²¹ Do not take to heart all the things that people say, lest you hear your servant cursing you. ²² Your heart knows that many times you yourself have cursed others.

The strength of wisdom:

- i. Knowing righteous/wise people still sin (v. 20).
- ii. Understanding sinners say dumb things (v. 21)
- iii. Realizing you're a sinner, too (v. 22).

No one is righteous
(Rom 1:29f; 2:1-3; 3:10; 5:8; 6:23).

Trust God

4. We can't fix it (vv. 23-24).

²³ All this I have tested by wisdom. I said, "I will be wise," but it was far from me. ²⁴ That which has been is far off, and deep, very deep; who can find it out?

- i. All this I have tested by wisdom – why do the righteous die while the wicked live (v. 23).
- ii. The answer was far from me (v. 23b).
- iii. None can understand it (v. 24; Job 38).
- iv. Trust God.

5. Life's confusing, so turn to Jesus (vv. 25-29).

²⁵ I turned my heart to know and to search out and to **seek wisdom** and the scheme of things, and to know the wickedness of folly and the foolishness that is madness.

²⁶ And I find something more bitter than death: the woman whose heart is snares and nets, and whose hands are fetters. He who pleases God escapes her, but the sinner is taken by her (cf. Prov 9)... ²⁹ See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they (cf. v. 20) have sought out many schemes (cf. Gen 3).

Wisdom admits our inability to live perfectly and drives us to God (*cf.* Mt 5:3*f*).

Life's confusing ... *Trust God.*

²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2Co 5:21)